Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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O 071621Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0994

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FOR EUR/CE, MS. KLINGAMAN

EO 11652: N/A TAGS: PINR, AU SUBJ: NIKOLAUS SCHERK, SECRETARY TO CHANCELLOR KREISKY: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. NIKOLAUS SCHERK, 35, AN AUSTRIAN FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, HAS BEEN ASSIGNED SINCE MARCH 1975 TO CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S OFFICE AS LIAISON OFFICER WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. SCHERK WAS BORN IN STANISIC (AT THAT TIME PART OF HUNGARY, NOW IN YUGOSLAVIA). AFTER THE POST-WAR EXPULSION OF ETHNIC GERMANS, THE FAMILY SETTLED IN VIENNA. IN 1960 SCHERK SPENT A YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL IN SAN LEANDRO, CALIFORNIA AS PARTICIPANT IN AFS PROGRAM. HE RECEIVED HIS DOCTORATE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA IN 1965. FOLLOWING MILITARY SERVICE IN 1966, SCHERK STUDIED POLITICAL SCIENCE IN PARIS, 1966-68. SCHERK JOINED THE MFA IN 1968 AND WAS ASSIGNED TO THE ECONOMICS SECTION. HIS FIRST POST ABROAD WAS BERN (1970-73); HIS SECOND LAGOS (1973-75).

2. SCHERK IS PERSONABLE AND COMPETENT, HAS THE EAR OF THE CHANCELLOR, AND IS LIKELY TO GO ON TO HIGHER RESPONSIBILITIES AS A RESULT. IN THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE HE HAS DEALT WITH THE SOVIET JEWISH REFUGEE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRANSIT ISSUE AMONG VARIED FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS. IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, HE HANDLES HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS.

3. SCHERK'S WIFE IS FRENCH, AND ATTRACTIVE. THEY HAVE THREE CHILDREN. HE SPEAKS VERY GOOD ENGLISH AND FRENCH. HE REMEMBERS HIS HIGH SCHOOL YEAR IN CALIFORNIA WITH PLEASURE, HAS A MOST POSITIVE

ATTITUDE TOWARD THE U.S., AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO ACCOMPANYING KREISKY ON HIS TRIP.BUCHANAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 07-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VIENNA01791
Document Source: Document Unique ID: 00

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770077-1200

Format: TEL

From: VIENNA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770384/aaaacwos.tel

Line Count: 64 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: ea3e81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a

Review Transfer Date: Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3183022 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: NIKOLAUS SCHERK, SECRETARY TO CHANCELLOR KREISKY: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

TAGS: PINR, AU, (SCHERK, NIKOLAUS)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ea3e81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009